

EXERCISE

Information Sharing Exercise

Facilitator's Instructions:

Each room should have two member countries represented. The participants should be divided into two groups: one for law enforcement individuals, and the other for public health. Foreign Affairs personnel should be split in half and divided between the two groups. Ensure to tell them that their role in this exercise is, primarily, to capture the major lessons learned (preparing for the plenary feedback session). Please hand them a copy of the feedback sheet for the Information Sharing Exercise.

Review the stated objectives below with the participants.

- 1) To demonstrate the value in sharing information between public health and law enforcement for purposes of detecting an intentional release of a biological or chemical agent.**
- 2) To consider how and when information is shared between public health and law enforcement.**

Explain briefly what the information is they are about to review.

1) Law Enforcement information: this is information typically reported to a law enforcement agency. It is divided into law enforcement information (of a criminal nature), intelligence information, and leads (assigned actions) that law enforcement is working. For purposes of the exercise, this information was collected in May 2006.

2) Public health (all information is for May 2006)

a) Public health surveillance information which lists reportable diseases, a phone log from the Toxics department, and a list of foodborne illnesses

b) Daily Syndromic Surveillance Summary (dated May 16, 2006) for ***Smallville, Country Europa***

- This information is gathered from multiple hospital emergency ***departments in Smallville*** and is used to determine if there are unusually high numbers of a particular sign/symptom

c) Foodborne Outbreak Investigation Report

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Facilitator instructions to the students (continued):

Today is May 17, 2006, and there are certain possible criminal events that are occurring in Smallville. Have them review the relevant information and identify the pieces of information that each agency feels may be important for the other agency. Have them list the information that they are going to share in the format that would share it on a separate piece of paper. A designated individual (public health for the public health group, and law enforcement person for the law enforcement group) will need to explain their group's rationale for why each item was included or excluded from the list.

Discussion Questions:

1. What information would you want to share? What information would you not share?
2. What is the process that you would use to determine what types of information you would share? How do you determine what information the other agency group might be interested in or need to receive?
3. Why did you choose to share the information that you will be sharing? Why do you think it might be relevant? In what format will you share it? Why did you choose that format?
4. Why did you choose to not share certain information? Are there concerns for how the information will be used? What would make you feel more comfortable with sharing that information?

After the exchange of information:

Instructions to participants:

Once they have identified the information to be shared, the designated PH and LE individuals will exchange lists in an attempt to identify links to their own data, which may indicate a terrorism or criminal event has occurred. Please give them a few minutes to make the appropriate links.

Discussion Questions:

1. What possible matches exist between your data and the data that was shared with you?
2. What pieces of information that you received were difficult to understand? What would have made it easier to understand or match to your information?
3. Now that you may have had a chance to tie some events together, which aspect (if any) of this information would you share with law enforcement or public health (or other) officials in other nations? Under what circumstances? Any nations in particular?

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Last item to be shared (Facilitator for LE group to LE group only):

Provide the Law Enforcement team with the “Second Exercise – Message for Europa Police.” Ask them to review their information and determine any relevance. Then ask them to determine what, if any, information they would share with public health. Ask them to share what information they feel they can with public health.

If any new information is shared, ask public health to determine if this new information establishes any new links.

If none of the information is shared, ask the Law Enforcement team to justify why they did not share this new information using the questions below.

Discussion Questions (to law enforcement) (public health should listen to this part of the discussion):

1. Since you’ve decided to not to share this information, how will law enforcement proceed with their investigation?
2. Is there any point in the future where you may include public health?

If information from LE has been shared, ask PH to determine the relevance or identify any links. Or if info not shared by LE, provide the full information on the informant to public health and ask them if this information is related to any information they have.

Discussion Questions (to public health) (law enforcement should listen to this part of the discussion):

1. Would this information been useful to public health? If so, please explain.

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Answer Key:

- 1) 2 cyanide poisonings (on the Daily Syndromic report at bottom) is tied to Paula Kissinger who has cyanide containers in her purse (page 3)
- 2) Daily syndromic surveillance that sees respiratory signal and Acute Respiratory cluster in Smallville suburb is tied to Very Bad Terrorist's plan to distribute aerosolized anthrax at Convention Center on page 2 (and tied to last 2nd Exercise Law Enforcement message about informant who may be infected)
- 3) Animal rights group threatening actions against fast food restaurants tied on page 3 to 3 people becoming ill at Goodfood's Fast Food (Public Health Surveillance Data)
- 4) Two pieces of Law Enforcement information (a 30-gallon tank of pesticide is reported missing on page 3 and the individuals who get sick at Dodgeball Stadium on page 1) is tied to Mary Myers who has symptoms of organo-phosphate poisoning (Public Health Surveillance Data)
- 5) Animal researcher who has brucella (Public Health Surveillance Data) tied to domestic terrorism investigation on students who promote violent actions against companies who conduct animal research (on page 4)
- 6) Foodborne outbreak investigation for shigella tied to person who posted a blog saying he had gotten back at those reunion jerks (on page 4)